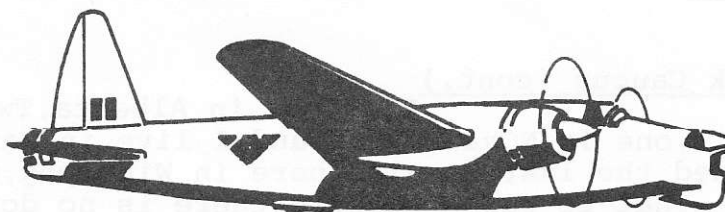


# 458

## SQUADRON NEWS



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### 4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N O F F I C E B E A R E R S

Squadron President: John Carey ( S.A.) Squadron Vice Presidents:  
 Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW) --- Australia: Jack Lewis (Q.)  
 Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT) Stan. Longhurst (NSW)  
 Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW) Canada: Jim. Donaldson (Manitoba)  
 U.K. Norm. Duke  
 New Zealand: Ron. Verity.

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\*Change.

#### CANUCK CAUCUS. from Jim. Donaldson.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive your note in regards to 458 Squadron News. I have been writing the odd letter to various members of the Squadron in Australia but never gave any thought that I should be writing something to be included in the Squadron News.

Before going on with the Squadron News I would like to thank you (the Editor) for taking the time you did in writing We Find and Destroy. I have read it through, and have relived many memories of the time I spent with 458. I have taken to having my Log Book beside me while reviewing the different events, and referring to them; it must have taken a considerable amount of time and effort to put it all together. Fortunately for me Joe Elliott sent it to me after the 1984 Wartime Aircrew Reunion. A Reunion I will never forget, and your book will be a constant reminder, again many thanks.

Now for the Squadron News: at present we have a total of 29 known members eight of whom we have not been able to locate, nine live in

Canuck Caucus (cont.)

B.C., one in Alberta, Two in Sask, seven in Ontario, one in NOva Scotia, and I live in Manitoba. Nine of us attended the last Reunion here in Winnipeg, which was held Sept. of 1988. That it was a success there is no doubt, especially if, according to Mick Reid, you were fortunate enough to hear Norm. Duke sing his "Ode to the Woad".

When it comes to corresponding between one another I have come to the conclusion that we are all in our way fairly active, or we have broken arms, sprained wrists, or we are, with the exception of Bryan Quinlan and Mick Reid, the greatest procrastinators that ever lived. But when we do finally get together we do have fun.

Fortunately for me, I have Bryan Quinlan and Mick Reid to keep me pretty well informed as to what is going on. As I am pretty well isolated, being the only ex-member in Manitoba, I must mention that, thanks to Mick and his friendship with Norm. Duke we keep up on the news from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, and have received cassette tapes of the Reunion at the Viking Hotel, as well as the dedication service. We also received tapes of the 3 Padres message to the 458 Reunion, Southport, 1970, and a tape of Padre Davies, Padre McKay and Bruce McKenzie. They are very interesting to listen to and of course they do bring back memories of when we were young and of the many not-to-be-forgotten faces and messages of life, that we will carry with us until we meet again.

I am enclosing some information on our 1992 Reunion here in Winnipeg --as you will note this one is labelled as the "End of Tour Reunion", but I wouldn't bet on it.

By the card I received, you have already met with Mickey Reid and his lovely wife Marg., I know he was really looking forward to a Reunion with all of you, especially his former crew members.

Well, I don't know if this will give you the Canadian content you are looking for but I would appreciate your writing skills being used to review the above material before publishing (Ed. No necessity whatever) .

Please pass on to all our old mates our best wishes, and when you are together, lift one for us to you.

God bless, Jim.

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CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION.

from Cy. Irwin.

Anzac Day in Sydney. In contrast to last year's unpleasant rainy weather this was celebrated in a cloudless sunny-sky day. Squadron members assembled behind the Squadron Banner and, led by Eric Munkman joined the Air Force contingent in the March. Afterwards marchers were joined by other members at our usual venue, the Great Southern Hotel, for lunch, our annual General Meeting, and a few beers.

A brief report on the General Meeting--after welcome by our Flight President Eric Munkman and silence for Fallen Comrades, reports for the year under review were given and election of officebearers conducted. It was status quo in all committee positions with the exception of Flight Secretary. Jock McGowen was appointed to this office. Squadron members who attended the March and Reunion were: Bert Thompson, Jack Aitken, Stan Longhurst, Cy. Irwin, Jack Bevan, Jock McGowen, Arnold Ashton, George Unitt, Jim. Whitem, Don. Bitmead, Stuart Ricketts, Jack Baker, Eric Munkman, Harry Baines, Marshall Allan, Sam. Barlow, Wal Nobbs, Bob. Low, Bob Bruce, Bill Hull, Ken Everett, Ralph Bailey, Bill Turier, John Preston, Merv. Hargraves, Peter Alexander and Keith Cousins.

On Air Force Matters. As a branch of the R.A.A.F. Association, 458 will be represented at the forthcoming State Assembly of the Association, to be held at Richmond on 15th-16th June. Our delegates will be Eric Munkman, Stan Longhurst and Fred. Strom. Peter Alexander will also attend as a Life Vice President of the N.S.W. Division. We have an agenda item on the programme--dealing with the proposed Veterans Independence Programme.

Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

Still on Air Force matters, the biennial National Conference of the R.A.A.F. Association is to be held later this year--at the RAAF Base at Richmond. The Association is making continued efforts, now being officially supported by RAAF Command, to involve the current personnel of the RAAF in the Association. At this National Conference, Peter Alexander will achieve 30 years service as (honorary) National Secretary of the RAAF Association.

Some General News. During MARCH a Canadian 458er, Mick Reid, paid a visit to Australia to renew old acquaintances. Mick travelled extensively, visiting George Unitt at Bateman's Bay, Col. Fereday in Canberra, Ron Eggars in Victoria, and Tim O'Riley in Adelaide. George Unitt alerted us to his Sydney visit, but with short time we were not able to welcome Mick as we would have liked. He was able to talk to Eric Munkman and Peter Alexander by 'phone and discuss old Squadron times.

Finally, a request has been received from Horrie Campbell to send his good wishes through this issue of the News to Bill Turier, and Bill Kelliher. He also asked that if anyone has whereabouts news of Bill Longford, he would like to be informed. Horrie's address is Bangalow Rd., Ballina. Good wishes from NSW Flight to members in other States. Cy.

Thanks to Cy. The NSW Flight President and Committee, and the Editor of the Squadron News warmly thank Cy, who has retired from his second term of office as Flight Secretary and News Correspondent, for all his work over the years. He will remain active as a member of the NSW Flight Committee.

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KIWI CALL. from Ron. Verity.

As you are aware our numbers are few, and we are well separated, and opportunities for a get-together seem to occur only when the parent organisation is moved! Incidentally, we (Mary and self) have our sights set on the next All-States Reunion in South Australia in 1991.

Unfortunately although Ivan Green and Kevin George attended the Melbourne functions I haven't heard from them about it.

We were delighted to have your company for a few hours when you (the Editor) were in Christchurch last September but regret we did not have time to take you about more, other than to the Air Force Museum at Wigram. More recently we have had Ern and Helen Laming and were able to take them for a drive round the Peninsula in brilliant weather. They returned to Chch. a week later after having savoured the delights of our more rugged southern scenery, and we enjoyed a meal with them at their Hotel. In spite of their age they show remarkable enthusiasm for travel. Additionally, Ern. (like yourself) has a great capacity for Squadron memories, especially the personalities of the North African days.

Earlier in the year I had a letter from John Fendick, son of Eric, one of my crew members, informing me of Eric's death at the end of January. His letter touched me deeply assuring me that his father had a very high opinion of our service together. Eric was very solid, steadfast, dependable, and blessed with much sly humour. Our ranks are dwindling.

Reading "Perestroika" by Mikhail Gorbachov makes one realise that there is a better way than war.....later this year we are to have a General Election. Pundits say Labour is on the way out. Although they turned the economy upside down, the shake up had to come. Maybe the speed of change could have been slowed down to suit our slower minds. Goodness, I have strayed!

Regards, Peter, and best wishes to Squadron enterprises; and thanks from the small group of Squadron members here in N.Z.

Ron.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

Our normal pre-Christmas BBQ was deferred to Sunday, March 24th at Ken and Beat Morkham's, which all agreed was an ideal time because of the magnificent Melbourne Autumn weather. Apologies were received from Ann Hurford, the Martins who were attending a wedding in Sydney, Dave and Betty Evans, and Neil and June Dean. Those in attendance were our hosts Ken and Beat Morkham, Elaine Timms, Jack and Dot Fleming, Bill Hurford (who won the bottle of plonk raffle), Ern and Helen Laming, Mick and Mavis Singe, Rupert and Beth Pearce, George and June Tarczynski, and brother Stan.

Ern Laming produced a letter from Mona Mathews which said: "It was so kind of everyone from 458 Squadron for their best wishes and the most welcome hamper which arrived a few days before Christmas". Ern also received an Australia Day award from the Corps of Commissionaires for Dedication to Duty and Long Service. We congratulate Ernie on attaining his 80th birthday on January 28th

Anzac Day, Melbourne. Due to the enormous publicity and interest on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Anzac, the unprecedented increase in the numbers of marchers caused something like an hour's delay after the scheduled E.T.D. However, our numbers did not increase, as only the following marched, led by Jack Fleming, and the Banner-bearers from No.2 A.T.C.: Neil Dean, Bill Hurford, John Morris (whom we had not seen for over 20 years--he met up with Neil Dean (at Bowls), Ern Bradshaw, Jack Ellis, Mick Singe, Bill Henry, Gordon Nash, Tom Primrose, Stan Tarczynski, and Stan Cartledge with grand-daughter Karen. Ern Laming joined in near the end as he had marched with the Corps of Commissionaires. The heavens opened about 100 yards short of the dispersal point and we got drenched. However, it was soon forgotten as upon arriving at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Windsor, we were greeted by Harry Ashworth (absent a few years), Ian Alison, Ken Morkham and Yank Martin.

Prior to the March, Mick Singe had met up with the late Ted Kennedy's brother Les, from Ballarat (ex Navy) who wished to be remembered to all.

Jack Fleming had a 'phone call from Vin. Clohesy (Hamilton) to say he would miss us as he intended to go over to Adelaide.

From Canada. On March 17th. Canadian Mick Reid and wife Margaret arrived at Ron and Sue Eggars home at Mt. Eliza (Mornington Peninsula) for a few days visit. Telephone calls between Ron Eggars, Bill Hurford, Mick Singe, and Jack Fleming resulted in a hasty BBQ being arranged at the Flemings at St. Leonards (Bellarive Peninsula). The Reids and the Eggars ferried across Port Phillip Bay from Sorrento to Pt. Lonsdale and were joined at the BBQ by hosts, Jack and Dot Fleming, Neil and June Dean, and Mick and Mavis Singe. The hospitality of the Victorian Flight President was much appreciated. Mick Reid's address is 1539 Glenwatson Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, 5E2 W1, Canada.

Pictures of Nostalgia. On Friday evening, May 4th., we were hosted by the Morkhams to a picture night of films taken by Ken. on the Squadron, mainly in North Africa, Italy, Sardinia, Gibraltar and Brighton in U.K. Also, we saw films of various reunions throughout Australia and, in all, a lot of memorable nostalgia. Ern Laming on behalf of the visitors thanked Ken and Beat. for a very enjoyable evening. Those who attended were:--Ern and Helen Laming, Yank and Kath Martin, Mick and Mavis Singe, George and June Tarczynski, and brother Stan., Bill Henry, Neil and June Dean,, Jack and Vivienne Morris,, and Jack and Margaret Ellis all the way from Dromana.

Subs. All Victorian members are reminded that their subscriptions are now overdue at \$6 and for wives \$3--payment should be made to Bill Hurford at 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199.

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CROWEATERS' COMMENTARY.

from Ted.Creighton.

In March, arriving late on the 21st and leaving midday on the 24th., the Reids had a short sharp visit to Adelaide. However, they were able to spend time with crew member Tim O'Riley, who lives at Aldgate in the Adelaide Hills. Whilst Tim is not as mobile as he used to be when he was nicknamed after one of S.A.'s greatest fast bowlers, family members were able to show the visitors the Lights of Adelaide, etc, and had a quick whizz around the Barossa Valley before departure for Canberra. On the Friday afternoon S.A. Flight members John and Pat Carey, Syd and Pat Bartram, Bill and Madge Taylor, Peter and Monica Thom, Ted and Freda Creighton, Keith Grimshaw and Geoff Esau met with Mick and Margaret at the Talbot Hotel, and afterwards at George's Cafe for a fish meal. Recovering from a bout of Sydney or Melbourne 'flu Margaret struggled along gamely but did seem in need of a good rest. Our best wishes to you both.

Anzac Day--the 75th. Anniversary. Adelaide continues to have a long dry start to 1990--but it did rain on Anzac Day--a short sharp shower while most people were still in bed. A fresh and breezy start to the morning saw overall numbers down at the 9 a.m. Airport Service. Most of the 458 regulars there were strengthened by a ladies contingent of Joyce Austin, Kath Bax, Madge Taylor, and Freda Creighton. John Carey placed the 458 wreath. Vin. Clohesy was a surprise addition to our numbers.

At the March we managed 3 ranks of 6 abreast plus Geoff Esau as Sister Anna and John Carey as leader of the band. The Roll Call was pretty much as usual, and included three mates of Syd Bartram and a couple of other supernumeraries. Surprise packets were Maurie Crooke (a Protville 458er) and also John Excell down from Murray Bridge. At one stage of the march a waving clapping shouting gang indicated that John must have brought a busload with him from the Bridge. With a crook back Peter Thom was one of the walking wounded and retired early from our ranks. After the March there was the usual gathering at the Talbot and Georges Cafe with Joan Woodhead, Pat Bartram, and her friends plus Freda Creighton adding the feminine touch to proceedings.

Sick Parade. Jack Riseley (Hospital), Pat Enright, and Arn. Scholar reported sick and to each we send sincere Get Wellwishes.

50th Anniversary All-States Reunion. Expressions of interest already in hand indicate a possible attendance of over 100. Busy times ahead for S.A. Flight. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted.Jewell.

Anzac Day. As usual, at the Dawn Service in Kings Park at the War Memorial, our Flight President Bill Clues laid a wreath in honour of Fallen Comrades--the wreath was once again kindly made by Vera Etherton. The March and Service later in the morning through the City, and later on at the Perth Esplanade, was the biggest held in this State for many years. It was pleasing to see so many young people lining the streets and cheering the marchers. I was very happy to see so many of our Vietnam veterans in the parade--who in the past were denied the place of honour that was due to them. They received a great reception from the crowd. W.A. Flight was ably led by Bill Clues, with yours truly carrying the banner. Each year we seem to be getting less members marching, with this year only 6 members doing so.

After the March we had a reunion lunch at Miss Maud's Restaurant in the City, which was very well attended with all those with non-marching chits, wives, friends and associate members. I think the final figure was around 35. Squadron members were: Bill Clues, Ted Jewell, Syd Baker, Henry Etherton, Charlie Davis, Stan Hopewell, Shorty Long, John Lilly, Peter McCarthy, Nundi Carpenter, Ron Gannaway, Ray Turley, Col. Fereday.

From the East. We had a very welcome visitor from N.S.W. with us

Sandgroppers Say... (cont.)

on Anzac Day--Col.Fereday was here in the West to attend the Empire Air Training Scheme Reunion. Col spent the day with us, marching with the Flight and afterwards at the luncheon. It was good to see him again.

Doug.(Bruno) Anderson dropped in to see us at the March but would not march. Met him again leaving Anzac House

Next Function.

We have a BBQ arranged for 1st July at one of our Associate members home but otherwise during the winter months there will not be much going on. Charlie Davis is still having trouble with his knee. Ron.Gannaway had a spell in hospital with a virus but is looking fit once again.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim.Holliday.

Anzac Day. After weeks of rain and flood, fortune favoured the brave! The sun shone on Anzac Day! Sun starved citizens turned out in thousands. Regretably age has reduced our ranks When once we had 30 marching, this year we could only rally 8. However our ranks were swelled with grandchildren marching with Chester Jones and Clive Wyman. Present at the Reunion were Jack Lewis, Bernie McLoughlin, Clive Wyman, Chester Jones, Bob.Helyar, Eric Kelly, Don Brandon, Fred. Kleckham and Jim Holliday, and of course the staunch Associates. Apologies from Gordon Cuthbertson (recovering from a cataract op.), Jack Baxter (reconstructed knees not programmed for marching), Tony Stone (committed locally), Bert.Garland (attending EATS Reunion in Perth), Dud.McKay (birth of grandson in Cairns), Bernie Hughes (restricted exercise), Gary Dalrymple (doctors orders), Ron.Russell (away in S.E.Asia), Jack Hobbs (caravanning in the Red Centre), Theo Ravenscroft (Parade Marshal in Longreach).

At the election, predictably, Jack Lewis and Jim.Holliday were re-elected as Flight President and Secretary.

Vale to Gordon Postle. Sadly, we report the sudden death from Heart attack of Gordon Postle, early on 15th Feb. morn at his home. After RAAF discharge, Gordon built his father's hotel broking business into Queensland's biggest, with interstate affiliations. He was most popular and highly respected in both business and racing circles (always a horse or two in training). Gordon was a staunch 458er, attending functions when business permitted. He leaves a widow, a son, two daughters (one a runner-up Miss Australia), and grandchildren. It was a private funeral.

Welcome back to Fred. Kleckham. A welcome attender at the Reunion was Fred Kleckham. He spent his working life as an agricultural adviser to the New Guinea Government. Nominally retired 15 years ago, Fred. was recalled to duty several times. Now domiciled at Seaforth (just north of Mackay) Fred spends most leisure time fishing in his sailing yacht. When the fish get sulky Fred spins yarn (not "yarns"), and dyes (not "dies"), making his own dyes from local leaves and seeds.

Personal Pars. Jack Baxter has foresaken the foreshores for a farm up the Currumbin Valley. Worked too willingly recently and had trouble straightening his vertebra to the vertical. So pleased was Gordon Cuthbertson to return to normal sight, he soon had the accumulated rust/ sanded off his wrenches. Enid McKay writes that Dud celebrated the birth of their latest grandson fishing on the outer reefs of Cairns with their five sons in law.

Dicky Bird is still chirping.

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Extra Items of Interest.

We have heard from Sandy McKenzie in England. Tells us Christina has been very ill with malaria. Her own Mother, Henrietta, is also recuperating.

Through "Dusty" Miller we have had news of Alf Rubidge in South Africa. He is well. More in another issue.

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